

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Necessary directions/clarifications were issued to RBI by the Government that no foreign investment of any kind is permitted in the print media sector.

(d) to (e) The Mid-day Multimedia Limited has informed the Government of their decision not to allocate any shares to FIIs.

Corruption in Doordarshan

†2420. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has totally failed to check corruption in Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of officers and employees found guilty of corruption and the number of those not punished during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to review the functioning of vigilance cell of Prasar Bharati; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financing of Film Projects by NFDC

2421. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) finance film projects of eminent film makers from time to time;

(b) if so, how many persons from North-East have been given this opportunity till now and of this, how many belong to Assam;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there are any fresh proposals from North-East film makers pending with NFDC in this regard;

(d) if so, how many;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the processing of these applications takes a lot of time; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till date, the Corporation has considered seven applications from the North-East out of which four applications belong to Assam.

(c) and (d) Two fresh proposals from the North-East film makers are pending with NFDC.

(e) No, Sir. While there were some delays for a brief period in the past, this anomaly has been corrected with the constitution of a Regular Board in December 2000.

(f) Does not arise.

Scheme for Journalists

†2422. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Journalists who have lost their lives during news coverage till the year 2000;

(b) the details thereof State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to help the families of such Journalists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.